

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

SARL NEWS SUNDAY 13 OCTOBER 2002

You are listening to Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National society for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 Central Africa Time (CAT) in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English.

This bulletin is also available on the website of the SARL at www.sarl.org.za and on packet bulletin boards.

SARL news invites clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to amateurs to sarlnews@hotmail.com not later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date. It would be appreciated if you could do it in both English and Afrikaans.

In the news today:

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO AMATEUR HONOURED AT TENTH INTERNATIONAL EME CONFERENCE

INNOVATION IN AMATEUR RADIO REWARDED

PRESIDENT'S NET FOR AMATEURS IN WESTERN AND EASTERN CAPE

RADIO AMATEURS AND SHORT WAVE LISTENERS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN A RESEARCH PROJECT

Stay tuned for more details on these and other news items.

You are tuned to ZS6SRL. Visit the SARL Website or call the SARL office which is open on weekdays from nine to thirteen hours (09:00 to 13:00) at 0(zero)11 675 2393 for details on how to join, book sales and all related amateur radio activities.

The news follows in detail:

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO AMATEUR AND TENTH INTERNATIONAL EME CONFERENCE

Every two years the international moonbounce (EME) amateur community meets at their conference. This year it took place from 16 to 18 August in Prague in the Czech Republic despite catastrophic floods in the region. Only few registered participants were deterred from traveling to Prague due to the floods. It became the largest ever EME convention with 101 amateurs and some 80 accompanying family members from 5 continents (S. America missing) taking part.

The actual conference programme included lectures, workshops and discussions which covered a number of different subjects and eight papers were also submitted.

Now for the surprise: There was also a competition for the best low noise preamplifiers in the bands from 144 MHz to 10 GHz. Submitted preamplifiers were measured by the HP equipment at the Czech Academy of Science. What was certainly a big surprise to all was that Ivo Chladek, ZS6AXT, achieved the following places: 1st for his 5760 MHz preamplifier, 2nd for his 432 MHz preamplifier and 3rd place for his 2304 MHz preamplifier. Ivo, Sarlnews is sure that all South African radio amateurs are with us when we extend our heartiest congratulations to you for these real worthwhile achievements of yours. May it also serve as inspiration to other amateurs to also undertake ambitious projects.

INNOVATION IN AMATEUR RADIO REWARDED

Brad Phillips ZS5BP was last week rewarded for his innovation in Amateur Radio when he received the Radio Amateur of the Year Award from Rolf Spaeth, Divisional Manager, Siemens Telecommunications. The award, which is sponsored by Siemens, is annually bestowed by the South African Amateur Radio Development Trust on the radio amateur who has made a major contribution to the amateur service.

Brad Phillips, Vice Chairman of the Highway Amateur Radio Club received the award for his work and introduction of IRLP, Internet Radio Linking Project. "IRLP offers new opportunities for the development of the amateur radio service in South Africa as it brings amateur radio within the reach of young people in schools and the older generation who after retirement often do not have access to HF facilities", Brad said in a PowerPoint illustrated presentation.

In presenting the award Rolf Spaeth said that Amateur Radio is a valuable asset to the telecommunications industry as it stimulates interest in careers in communication and provides a pool of enthusiastic recruits. He also announced the sponsorship package for the 2003 award, which includes the continuation of being a sponsor member of the SARL.

SARL President Sid Tyler congratulated Brad on his achievements. He said that IRLP is as much part of amateur radio as is HF. The Internet should not be seen as a threat to our activities but rather as a challenge to embrace for the good of expanding our universe and that's just what ZS5BP and others are doing.

Brad received a certificate and a cheque for R1000. Brad will be interviewed on SAFM's Computer Gig at twenty thirty hours (20:30) this evening and on Amateur Radio Mirror this morning at ten hours (10:00) CAT.

PRESIDENT'S NET FOR AMATEURS IN WESTERN AND EASTERN CAPE

On account of poor propagation conditions during the weekly President's net, the President of the SARL, Sid Tyler ZS6AYC, will be having a special net on Sunday evening October 20 at 20:00 CAT only for amateurs in the Western and Eastern Cape. The net will be on the air from Stellenbosch on the

145,700 repeater and from Port Elizabeth on the Eastern Cape repeater network. Amateurs will have the opportunity to ask questions to the President. Amateurs in the Western and Eastern Cape are kindly requested to make use of this opportunity.

OCTOBER RAE

This coming Thursday October 17, the RAE will take place in 16 centres throughout South Africa. A total of 109 candidates enrolled for the examination. Candidates must take their examination numbers and ID document as well as a completed license application form with them. The form was mailed together with the examination numbers. Candidates are advised to report at eighteen thirty (18:30) already at the examination centre. The SARL wishes success to all the candidates with the examination. The SARL also extends its thanks to all the invigilators and the assistant invigilators which are involved with the examination as well as all the lecturers who with a lot of time and devotion prepared the candidates for the examination and a pleasant and enriching hobby.

ANOTHER SPECIAL ON BOOKS

The SARL bookshop had a good response on the special book offer early in September. This offer is still open but only one copy on the “Design Notebook” and some 20 copies of “Understanding Basic Electronics” are left.

The SARL bookshop is once again running a special offer on five books. These books are offered below cost to members to clear stock and the offer will be valid until the books are all sold. Because of the changing nature of the market for books, the SARL bookshop will no longer stock these books.

The first book is “NOS-Intro” by Ian Wade, G3NRW. This is an A5 format 350 page book on TCP/IP over Packet Radio, in effect THE handbook on the Packet Radio Operating System. This is a practical book with lots of information and tips. It will be sold for R10 copy to SARL members.

The second book is “Your VHF Companion” published by the ARRL. This is a small format book of more than 200 pages and covers all aspects of VHF work: FM and repeaters, Packet, Single Sideband operation, Satellites, Slow Scan and Amateur TV, Fox hunting etc. It also contains many photographs.

The third offer is on “Radio Auroras”. This book, by Chalie Newton G2FKZ, is published by the RSGB and gives information on how auroras come about and how they can be used for VHF propagation.

The fourth book on sale is “Your RTTY/Amtor Companion” by Steve Ford, WB8IMY, the editor of QST. This is a 140 page A5 format book published by the ARRL. It is all about the world of HF digital communications and if you have never operated Amtor or RTTY before, this book is written especially for you.

The last book on sale is “Beyond Line of Sight”. This A4 format book of more than 200 pages is published by the ARRL and is well illustrated. The articles, reprinted from QST, are about what makes VHF DX possible: tropo, sporadic-E, aurora and auroral -E, meteor scatter, F-layer propagation, transequatorial propagation and earth-moon-earth.

All of these technical books represent excellent value for money at R50 each with No 1 at R10 only.

Phone Debbie at 011 675 2393 to check on the stock position. Hams who cannot visit the NARC to buy the books must add postage to their payment.

JOTA AND CQ HOU KOERS

The annual Jamboree-on-the-Air and CQ Hou Koers will be held over next weekend from 18 to 20 October. Scouts and Guides from all over the world will be taking part in the 45th Jamboree-on-the-Air on 19 and 20 October, while Voortrekkers will be participating in CQ Hou Koers on 18 and 19 October.

Radio amateurs are requested to contact and support their local Scout groups, Guide companies and/or Voortrekker Commandos for these activities. You can be important in the life of a child.

QSL CARDS

Amateurs are reminded that QSL cards for non-members of the SARL will be kept until the end of October. Members joining until then will receive their cards. The QSL cards of members who have not yet renewed their subscriptions will also be held until the end of October.

RADIO AMATEURS AND SHORT WAVE LISTENERS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN A RESEARCH PROJECT

Radio Amateurs and Short wave listeners are invited to participate in a propagation research project during the solar eclipse in December. The project involves the monitoring of a number of medium wave broadcast frequencies prior and during the eclipse. The project is being coordinated by the Department of Physics at the University of the Witwatersrand.

Listen to Amateur Radio Mirror International at 10:00 this morning for a special feature about the event. Regular updates will be carried on SARL news and be available on the SARL Web at www.sarl.org.za.

DIVISION 6 BAND PLANNING MEETING

It is with pleasure that it can be reported that yesterday's meeting of this committee which was held at the NARC was very well attended, also by representatives of far off clubs. Important items were discussed and Sarlnews trusts that we will soon be able to report on the the resolutions adopted.

MEGA SUMMER FLEAMARKET IN PRETORIA

All the amateur radio clubs in Pretoria will be hosting a joint summer fleamarket on Saturday 26 Oktober 2002. The fleamarket will be held at the usual place at the South-Campus of the University of Pretoria, at the corner of University and Lynwood roads. The starting time is 10:00.

Everyone, clubs and non club members are welcome to attend. Come and visit this Mega Fleamarket in Pretoria. Phone Almero ZR6RY on (H)(012) 567 3722 or 082 908 3359 if you want to book a table or if you need more detail about the fleamarket.

This brings us to the end of today's news bulletin.

This bulletin was compiled by George, ZS6NE, and read by.....fromas a service to radio amateurs, short wave listeners and electronic enthusiasts.

The SARL invites you to listen to Amateur Radio Mirror International on 21560, 9750, and 7082 kHz and 145,625 MHz in East London, 145,650 in Durban and 145,750 MHz in the Pretoria area. A repeat broadcast can be heard on Mondays at 20:00 CAT on 3215 kHz. Telkom and Sentech sponsor ARMI.

Also join the SARL President's net, which is on the air at noon on Sundays on 7082 kHz.

You have been listening to ZS6SRL, thank you for joining us. Also a big word of thanks to those persons supplying news for these bulletins and the amateurs who relay the bulletins so regularly.

Goodbye everyone.

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